

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
EASTERN DIVISION

BAKARI LOGISTICS, LLC,	)	
	)	Case No. 1:23-cv-02199
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	Judge Dan Aaron Polster
v.	)	
	)	<u>OPINION AND ORDER</u>
PROGRESSIVE CASUALTY	)	
INSURANCE COMPANY,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

Before the Court is Progressive Casualty Insurance Company’s (“Progressive”) motion to dismiss the Plaintiff’s first amended complaint. ECF Doc. 9. The Plaintiff is Catrell Bakari (“Mr. Bakari”), who appears *pro se* on behalf of his company, Bakari Logistics, LLC. ECF Doc. 6, PageID# 69. Progressive asserts three grounds for relief in its motion to dismiss, the first of which is that dismissal is warranted because the Plaintiff, a non-lawyer, cannot assert claims on behalf of a limited liability company in federal court. ECF Docs. 9; 9-1.

The Defendant is correct. A corporation may not litigate a case *pro se*; it must have a lawyer represent it. *See Lea v. Tracy Langston Ford, Inc.*, 2019 U.S. App. LEXIS 38710, at \*6 (6th Cir. Dec. 30, 2019) (citing *Rowland v. Cal. Men’s Colony*, 506 U.S. 194, 201-03 (1993) (“A corporation, partnership, or association may appear in federal courts only through licensed counsel and not through the pro se representation of an officer, agent, or shareholder.”)). Additionally, the Sixth Circuit has “consistently interpreted [28 U.S.C.] § 1654 as prohibiting pro se litigants from trying to assert the rights of others.” *Olagues v. Timken*, 908 F.3d 200, 203 (6th Cir. 2018). In other words, Bakari Logistics, LLC must be represented by counsel to participate in litigation in federal court. *See Wise Man Brewing, LLC v. Three Bridges Distillery*, 2022 U.S. App. LEXIS 33496, at \*1 (6th Cir. Dec. 5, 2022) (dismissing a limited liability

company's appeal because it was unrepresented). Therefore, Mr. Bakari may not appear *pro se* on behalf of his company in this matter. Accordingly, the Court GRANTS the Defendant's motion to dismiss. The first amended complaint is DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE under the Defendant's first ground for relief, and the Court need not address the remaining grounds for relief.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: January 26, 2024

/s/ Dan Aaron Polster  
Dan Aaron Polster  
United States District Judge